



2SLGBTQ+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 18, 2024

A meeting of the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 5:36 pm, via electronic means.

PRESENT: Eddy Elmer, Chair
Saif Al Shamaa*
Mathew Fleury
Hana Hata
Tristan Lai
Chris Morrissey
Bradley Sarandi
Viplav Subramanian* (Vice-chair)
Michael Yus*

ABSENT: Tara Fraser (Leave of Absence)
Ilaine Marjoribanks (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Meiszner, Council Liaison
Sonmin Bong, Equity Consultant, Staff Liaison
Rick Hurlbut, Alternate Member

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Terri Burke, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Modified Procedures

At this point in the meeting, it was

MOVED by Eddy Elmer
SECONDED by Chris Morrissey

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee suspend the rule of section 15.13 of the *Procedure By-law* in order to allow modified decision-making methods during the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Saif Al Shamaa absent for the vote)

Leave of Absence Requests

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve leaves of absence for Tara Fraser and Ilaine Marjoribanks, for this meeting.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Saif Al Shamaa absent for the vote)

Approval of Minutes

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee approve the Minutes from the meeting of Thursday, September 21, 2023, as circulated.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Saif Al Shamaa absent for the vote)

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VARY AGENDA

At this point in the proceeding, the Committee agreed by Consensus to deal with item 5 next.

For clarity, the minutes are recorded in numerical order.

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1. Election of Co-Chair

The Committee agreed to postpone this item to the regular meeting on March 7, 2024.

2. Staff Presentation - Imagine West End Waterfront

Staff from the Board of Parks and Recreation and Engineering Services provided a presentation and responded to questions.

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See page 3 of Appendix A

3. Staff Presentation - Burrard Slopes Park

Staff from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation provided a presentation and responded to questions.

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

Note: See pages 3 and 4 of Appendix A

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The Committee recessed at 6:50 pm and reconvened at 6:55 pm.

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4. Honoraria for Committee Members

The Chair led a discussion regarding Honoraria for Committee Members.

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee liaise with other Committees to advance discussion about remuneration for all “Type A” advisory bodies, as per the Committee’s [motion](#) of June 22, 2022.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Viplav Subramanian and Michael Yus absent for the vote)

Note: See page 4 of Appendix A

5. Liaison Updates

The Council Liaison noted previous and upcoming Council reports that may be of interest to the Committee.

The Staff Liaison advised that a new Equity Officer has been selected. The Committee discussed inviting the Equity Officer to a future meeting.

6. Working Session Updates

The Committee discussed the working sessions of October 24, 2023 and November 23, 2023.

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Viplav Subramanian and Michael Yus absent for the vote)

Note: See pages 1 to 3 of Appendix A

7. Subcommittee Updates

- a) Aging and Housing**
- b) Safety and Well-Being**
- c) 2SLGBTQ+ Spaces, Place-Making, and Events**

Subcommittee members provided updates on their work and responded to questions.

Following discussion, the resolution below was put on the floor:

THAT the Committee submit additional notes for this item to administrative staff, to be appended to the minutes.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Viplav Subramanian and Michael Yus absent for the vote)

Note: See pages 4 and 5 of Appendix A

8. New Business

- a) Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee Motion**

The Committee agreed to discuss this item at their next working session.

ADJOURNMENT

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

APPROVED BY CONSENSUS
(Viplav Subramanian and Michael Yus absent for the vote)

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, March 7, 2024
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Business Centre Meeting Room, 2nd Floor,
City Hall
/ Webex Online

The Committee adjourned at 7:36 pm.

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Supplementary Notes for 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Meetings

October 24, 2023 Working Session

Equity Lens Review of City Bylaws

- Following a staff presentation, members suggested that the Review should be more explicit in listing specific groups that are disproportionately impacted by existing by-laws (e.g., transgender individuals)
- Members also suggested that new and existing by-laws should specifically address the following:
 - discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
 - housing for persons with disabilities
 - inequities for renters (e.g., setting maximum indoor temperatures)
 - precarious legal status of “collective housing” and threat of eviction from by-law officers following neighbour complaints
 - challenges faced by individuals living in public spaces
 - barriers to accessing social services

West End Community Hub Development

- Following a staff presentation, members recommended that the development blend seamlessly into the neighbourhood (e.g., not be a closed-off space) and that safety features like good exterior lighting be given adequate attention

Gastown Public Spaces Update

- Following a staff presentation, members underscored the importance of the following:
 - ensuring that spaces are safe but not over-policed (e.g., excessive restrictions by security guards)
 - good exterior lighting, including on storefronts and between buildings
 - wide range of opening hours for public and private spaces
 - ensuring that businesses do not take over all spaces (i.e., must be adequate amount of free public spaces)
 - ensuring the area is vibrant and exciting for all groups

November 23, 2023 Working Session

- As a number of members indicated they could not attend, the meeting convened as a working session instead of a regular meeting

Vancouver Heritage Register Update

- Following a staff presentation, members expressed concern that the Register does not carry substantial weight; it recognizes historic buildings but cannot prevent them from being demolished or substantially altered

- Members were advised that heritage retention options can be explored and incentivized in the event that a property is to be demolished or substantially altered, however, members felt that this is inadequate because it leaves too much at the discretion of City staff and property owners
- Members expressed disappointment that the Register does not provide sufficient recognition of historically significant neighbourhoods and streetscapes (e.g., Davie Village); this leaves them vulnerable to substantial redevelopment and loss of historical identity

Modernizing Home-Based Business Regulations

- Following a staff presentation, members expressed support for the changes
 - the changes will benefit 2SLGBTQ+ residents, many of whom are small business owners who cannot afford commercial space
 - the changes will benefit newly arrived immigrants who provide culturally specific services from their homes
 - the changes will provide added security for small business owners because they will be able to work from the safety of their home rather than visit a stranger's location
- Members made the following recommendations:
 - consider how to mitigate the impact of additional foot traffic in residential buildings, especially relating to noise and security
 - consider fire hazards due to additional electricity use (e.g., computer servers) and storage; additional safety equipment like fire extinguishers should be stipulated
 - consider requiring business owners to take out additional insurance; this is important given that regular tenants' insurance does not typically cover property damage and personal injury liability related to business activities
 - provide a checklist to help business owners who require a building inspection
 - seek feedback from the West End Business Improvement Association and other organizations serving 2SLGBTQ+ businesses
 - do more outreach to advise small business owners, especially those in ethnic minority communities, about changes to the regulations

Update on 1158 Burrard Street Development

- The third level of this development has been designated as space for community arts and culture organizations
- Committee members felt that 2SLGBTQ+ organizations should be given the first opportunity to occupy part of this space (e.g., Pride Society; Queer Arts Festival)
- Members also felt that there should be an art installation at grade to reflect Davie Village; they would like the developer to consult with the Committee about this

5083 Joyce Street Development

- Members would like staff to advise if the planned art installation is in progress

Trans, Gender Diverse and Two-Spirit Inclusion and Safety Action Plan **(Council Motion)**

- Following a request by Co-chair Eddy Elmer, Council passed the following amendment to the motion: “THAT Council direct staff to engage with Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, and advisory committees, including but not limited to SOGI Committee at Vancouver Police Department, 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee, Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee, Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Racial and Ethno-Cultural Equity Advisory Committee and others to inform and engage on report back with a draft work plan and goals.”

Love OUT Loud Festival

- Rick Hurlbut discussed a Park Board [motion](#) in support of this festival
- He will report back and advise if the Committee will have opportunities to provide feedback on event planning

January 18, 2024 Meeting

West End Waterfront Master Plan

- Following a staff presentation, members underscored the importance of the following:
 - good lighting to improve safety and way-finding
 - adequate noise management
 - inclusive design for furniture (e.g., comfortable for seniors and persons with disabilities; discouraging use of ‘hostile architecture’)
 - clean, safe, gender-inclusive bathrooms with reasonable operating hours
 - return of more logs to the beach (while being cognizant of issues relating to safety and cleanliness)
 - consultation with diverse communities in any naming processes
- Members invited staff to return and provide an update before finalizing the Master Plan

Burrard Slopes Park

- Following a staff presentation, members underscored the importance of the following:
 - subtle [design choices](#) to encourage social interaction
 - water features
 - using space for disaster planning, as in [other cities](#) (e.g., storing food, water, and other supplies underground; using spaces for temporary shelter)
 - although staff indicated that community centres, rather than parks, are disaster hubs, Committee members pointed out that not all community centres are suitable for this purpose (e.g., not all are earthquake-proof)
 - other points as raised under West End Waterfront Master Plan above

- Staff will return and provide an update before finalizing the concept plan

Remuneration for Type A Advisory Committees

- Members discussed the status of the Committee's [motion](#) of June 14, 2022 regarding remuneration for all Type A advisory bodies
- The following points were made:
 - advisory bodies are asked to do a substantial amount of work and provide advice that benefits staff, Council, and residents
 - remuneration would recognize and legitimize this important work as well as improve recruitment and retention, especially of underrepresented and underserved groups
 - other municipalities already provide remuneration for attendance at regular meetings (e.g., City of Edmonton and City of Toronto)
 - other advisory bodies have expressed interest in this issue, including the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Food Policy Council
 - an opt-out process is preferable to opt-in because some members may feel uncomfortable or embarrassed to request remuneration
- Following discussion, the Committee passed a motion to advance this issue

Aging and Housing Subcommittee (Update by Chris Morrissey)

- Met during October working session and again in November and December

New Strategic Lead for Older Persons

- Subcommittee members were delighted to learn that the City has selected Anthony Kupferschmidt for this new position
- Eddy will invite him to the March or April meeting of the Committee as a whole
- Members will ask him about the status of updates to the Seniors Strategy and [Healthy City Strategy](#) and underscore the importance of recognizing the needs of 2SLGBTQ+ seniors when implementing these strategies

2SLGBTQ+ Seniors Housing Forum

- Members suggested hosting a series of community forums in May to gather feedback on the housing needs of 2SLGBTQ+ older adults
- This will benefit the new Strategic Lead for Older Persons, plus groups like [Living with Pride Foundation](#), which recently met with the subcommittee to discuss plans for a seniors housing complex geared to 2SLGBTQ+ seniors
- Subcommittee members will draft a list of possible invitees

Other Housing Topics

- Chris Morrissey will contact McLaren Housing Society, which will be operating the 2SLGBTQ+ housing component in the new QMUNITY building; she will ask if their mandate still includes 2SLGBTQ+ seniors

- The Older Persons and Elder Advisory Committee (OPEAC) is bringing forward several housing-related motions to Council; they will share them with us for review and possible endorsement

Social Isolation and Loneliness

- Eddy Elmer has spoken with Marc White, Chair of OPEAC, to discuss next steps in implementing recommendations from Eddy's 2018 [report on isolation and loneliness](#)
- It is anticipated that there will be cross-committee participation in this work, in close collaboration with the new Strategic Lead for Older Persons

Public Safety and Well-Being Subcommittee (Update by Eddy Elmer)

- Met during October working session and discussed the following:
 - [UN Safe Cities and Public Spaces Initiative](#) and recommendations that could be drawn from it
 - follow up on safety improvements (e.g., street lighting)
 - ensuring that City-funded organizations continue to be inclusive for sexual and gender minorities
- Eddy Elmer provided the following updates as Co-chair of the Vancouver Police Department Sexual and Gender Diversity Liaison Committee
 - *Raise Your Voice*: VPD is planning a special campaign to increase reporting of hate crimes and interpersonal violence; the first phase will include a forum to gather feedback around barriers to reporting
 - ongoing improvements are being made to online hate crime reporting, in consultation with E-Comm
 - strategies to increase awareness of the [Safe Place Program](#) are being considered
 - 2SLGBTQ+ competency training for police officers is being updated
 - VPD gathered feedback from the Liaison Committee re: guidelines for the [Body Worn Camera Pilot Project](#), which launched in January
 - Eddy attended a VPD community safety forum for District 1, held at the West End Community Centre; he reminded VPD members about the importance of security for the entirety of Pride Week as well as during Pride Month in June

2SLGBTQ+ Spaces, Place-Making and Events Subcommittee (Update by Rick Hurlbut)

- Met during October working session
- Seeking staff updates re: 1158 Burrard Street Development (see November working session notes above)
- Rick Hurlbut will report back on his meeting with the City of Toronto 2SLGBTQ+ Committee